

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00293 210853Z

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UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0293

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, LU

SUBJ: LUXEMBOURG NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND GERMAN COURT DECISION

1. FOR THE PROJECTED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AT THE MOSELLE RIVER SITE IN REMERSCHEN, THE LUXEMBOURG GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO RESPECT THE SAFEGUARD STANDARDS IN EFFECT IN WEST GERMANY. (THE PLANT IS IN FACT A JOINT VENTURE OF THE GOL AND THE WEST GERMAN UTILITY RWE WITH CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING BY THE GERMAN SUBSIDIARIES OF BROWN-BOVERI AND BABCOCK-WILCOX.) A RECENT FREIDOURG COURT DECISION HAS CHALLENGED THESE SAME WEST GERMAN SAFEGUARD STANDARDS AND THEREBY CAUSED A NUCLEAR PLANT MORATORIUM IN THE FRG. FOR THE INTERIM IT HAS HAD THE SAME EFFECT ON THE ONE LUXEMBOURG PROJECT. THE GOL HAS BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY PREPARING ITS PROJECT PRESENTATION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND A CLOSE VOTE HAS BEEN EXPECTED ALL ALONG. THE PRESENTATION HAS ALREADY BEEN DELAYED SEVERAL MONTHS AND THE CURRENT TURMOIL IN THE FRG HAS NOT HELPED THE ATMOSPHERICS. THE GOL DOES NOT, HOWEVER, SEEM PREPARED TO

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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00293 210853Z

SACRIFICE ITS PLANS DESPITE THE RECENT BROUHAHA ACROSS THE BORDER.

2. STRICTLY SPEAKING, THE GERMAN COURT RULING AFFECTS TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR PLANTS, WHEREAS THE GOL SEEKS AND NEEDS A PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF THE PRINCIPLE, IE. A YES OR NO VOTE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT AS A

GOVERNMENT CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE ENERGY FIELD AND ON THE FINANCING SCHEME. A GOL OFFICIAL INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT COULD OR WOULD AWAIT A RESOLUTION OF THE GERMAN COURT CHALLENGE BEFORE BRINGING THE PROJECT BILL TO THE FLOOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE THINKS IT UNLIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD RISK A LONG LIMBO FOR THE PROJECT AFTER THE DELAYS ALREADY EXPERIENCED. THE GOL WILL ACCEPT THE FINAL FRG DECISION ON TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS, WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, AND AMEND PROJECT PLANS ACCORDINGLY. IN ANY CASE, HE VIEWS THE REAL CONTEST IN GERMANY AS POLITICAL AND NOT TECHNICAL. IN THE MEANTIME, ALBEIT AFTER A COOLING-OFF PERIOD, THE GOL PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO CLEAR THE PARLIAMEN-TARY HURDLE. GINN

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